

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

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SATURDAY.....AUGUST 8, 1886.

The Contest Over the Classics.

The regular summer discussion of the magazines and newspapers touching the classical and anti-classical question has been going on for some weeks, and, as usual, the champions of the classics have, we think, more than held their own. Harvard has lately relaxed considerably its requirements regarding the study of Greek and Latin. On the other hand, the Boston Herald, which is a strong advocate of the old system. In a recent article the Herald presents the following condensation of Dr. W. T. HARRIS' "account of his personal education," which appeared in the August Forum:

"He had worked his way through Yale College to about the middle of his junior year, when he began to disparage the study of Greek and Latin as dead languages, and so cordially hated them in favor of the three moderns—modern science, modern literature, and modern history—that he concluded to withdraw from college and educate himself. He soon found his mistake. He discovered that his slender knowledge of Latin and Greek was his chief instrument in the acquisition of new ideas, and that the words in the English language which are used in the expression and communication of general ideas are derived almost entirely from the classic languages. This was not all that he discovered. He saw soon after that the modern civilization is derivative, resting on the Greek for its aesthetic and scientific forms, and on the Roman for the forms of its political and legal life. This is the framework, so to speak, of our civilization, and modern culture can only learn to know itself by studying its embryology in Latin and Greek. In our schools we put on for a while the spiritual clothing of the Greeks and the Romans and look out upon the world through their eyes. In acquiring the ability to analyze and understand their civilization, we gain the power to comprehend our own."

We agree with our Boston contemporary, that this is one of the best arguments that have been adduced in favor of the continued study of the classical tongues in our colleges. But the Herald does not rest the case upon the authority of Dr. HARRIS. It calls attention to the remark of Professor JAMES BRYCE, "that the Greek and Latin civilizations furnished the best examples of training in the art of using materials that could be named because there was a limit to their extent," and by way of comment adds:

"His (Professor Bryce's) experience coincides with that of Dr. Harris. Both of these men—the one an Oxonian and the other an honored student at Yale, where the classics have always been held in favor—agree that, for the purposes of the larger education which the universities are expected to furnish, there is no training that, on the whole, is so fruitful as that which is acquired through the knowledge of these tongues."

And we may add that the testimony of both the above-named gentlemen as to the value of the classics is supplemented by that of some of the most eminent professors of modern languages. These not only find their own knowledge of the classics indispensable when they come to impart instruction, but, as one of them writes, they find that the pupil who undertakes the higher course in modern languages is apt to "grope" unless he has had classical training. We have also the testimony of some of the most prominent workers in the domain of science that, apart from the fact that nearly all scientific nomenclature is based upon the classics, the study of Latin and Greek is invaluable in establishing the mental discipline which is so necessary in scientific studies. BULWER-LYTON in his *Cassianiana* (*Hind on Mental Culture*), gives this advice:

"In science, read by preference, the newest works; in literature, the oldest. The classic literature is always modern." The consensus of scholarly opinion would seem to sustain BULWER-LYTON to the extent, at least, that the classics constitute a factor in culture and a stimulus to intellectual development that cannot be supplied.

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN POSTAL LAWS.

At its recent session, Congress passed a law to extend the system for the immediate delivery of letters. It re-creates packages and mailable matter of all sorts may be sent to be delivered at once. One Senator said that it would take more than a hundred wagons in New York city alone to carry out the new law.

We were surprised to learn, as we did from the debates, that in the first four months of the operation of the law of the last Congress on the subject the Post-Office Department cleared over twenty thousand dollars by it.

not possibly refer to the State's own contracts, for a State desiring to repudiate its debts would not need to pass any law for that purpose. All it would have to do would be to refuse to pay the debt. Nobody has ever tried to make Mississippi pay her repudiated debt.

We have never held any other opinion. When he was a debt-paying member of the Virginia Legislature, General TALIAFERRO said that the provision in question was not intended to apply to a State's own debts; and, we also, a debt-payer then, endorsed his statements. We know from history that it is simply impossible that the framers of the Constitution intended to touch the States' control over their own finances. The Constitution could not have been ratified if it had been known that the provision in question was meant to apply to States. This is proved, to our satisfaction at least, by the fact that as soon as evidence was furnished that it could be made to apply to the States, our fathers amended the Constitution so as to provide that no State shall be sued as Virginia was recently sued.

Words of Warning.

The following communication comes from one of Virginia's most distinguished sons—distinguished not less as a judge than as a lawyer. Weigh well his words:

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I have read with much care your recent editorial on the debt question and on the "Dulaney case," and they command my hearty approbation. Whilst other Democratic editors have taken sides with the bondholders or observed a studied silence and cold neutrality, your course has been consistent throughout, in accordance with the policy and pledges of the Democratic party and the true interest of the State. No greater mistake can be made than to suppose that the people of Virginia have changed in the slightest degree with reference to the Riddleberger settlement. The determination to stand by that settlement to the end is as fixed today in the public mind as it was in the beginning. I undertake to say that the party advocating its abandonment or an increase of taxation is doomed to a disastrous defeat.

Certain editors and professed financiers tell us that in view of the recent decision of the Government of the United States of the Democratic party ought to change its policy. These gentlemen seem to forget that the plank in the Democratic platform on the debt question was reaffirmed and reasserted after the Supreme Court had rendered its most obnoxious and objectionable decision. On that plank we went into the canvass last fall. On it we retained the confidence of the people, and we achieved our victory. Let the experiment be made; let the policy mean anything but what the people mean; let the State authorities shall disregard the acts of the last Legislature and throw wide open the door to the unlimited use of coupons in the payment of taxes. The result of such a policy is certain and inevitable—a return to the embarrassments of 1879 and 1880, when the Treasury was bankrupt and the banks a suppliant at the feet of the State.

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blinded, deaf, and dumb to be fed and clothed, judges and juries to be paid and justice to be administered; how is the State not to perish when all its revenues are absorbed by the "out-worm of the Treasury?"

This burden must fall on those who from necessity or patriotism pay their taxes in money, and they who pay in coupons know it, feel it, and understand it. They seek to escape this ugly dilemma by advocating an increase of taxation. But surely a gentleman willing to submit to increased burdens ought to be willing, without such increase, to pay the honest dues of the State in something more valuable than a coupon.

Men of fortune may indeed be able to bear the heavy burdens arising from an increased rate of taxation, but can the great body of the people do so? That question must be answered in the negative by every man familiar with the condition of the State. The great staple products of Virginia—wheat, tobacco, and cattle—are so depressed that the market prices scarcely remunerates the farmer and planter for the cost of raising. Times are harder, money scarcer in the country than it has been in forty years. An increase of taxation at such a period would be simply an act of sheer madness and cruelty. For the present at least we must stand where we are. The remedy is in the people and by the people. If they are true to themselves the debt question will settle itself in a few years.

If the men of wealth and influence about the State would yield to the promptings of patriotism and pay their taxes in money for a brief period the trouble of Virginia would vanish like a summer cloud. Let me say to them, Take care, gentlemen, how you persist in causing the burden of government on your poor neighbors. You will only succeed in arousing the class prejudice. The noxious weed of Communism now so prevalent in the North will spring up here with luxuriant growth and darken the whole face of Virginia in a few years. Under a new Constitution and new rulers—the legitimate offspring of the aggressive elements of the times—you will wake up some fine morning and find yourselves under a system of taxation which will cause you to grove the day you sought an exemption from these burdens which all ought alike to bear.

AUGUST 4, 1886. A DEMOCRAT.

The President.

Certainly we have a President *au generis*. It had just come to be thought that his approval of the oleomargarine bill showed that Mr. CLEVELAND was a candidate for re-nomination, that being considered a bid for the support of the agricultural interests, when all such calculations are demonstrated to be at fault by his refusal to sign the MORRISON resolution. This resolution was one of the most popular measures passed by Congress during its late session. On the final passage of this bill the Senate did not divide at all, and the House of Representatives voted yes 120 to noes 63. Some other reason than ambition must be conceded to be the motive of the President's action, or rather failure to act, for the bill was killed by a pocket veto.

We are afraid that the President has injured his party's prospects of success this fall by his refusal to approve the MORRISON resolution. We mean, we fear that the Democratic majority in the next House of Representatives will not be as large as it would have been if Mr. CLEVELAND had hearkened to the requests of the Democrats of the South and West in respect of the MORRISON resolution, as he did in respect of the river-and-harbor bill.

"If reasons (reasons) were as plenty as blackberries," says punning JACK FALSTAFF, "I would give no reason on compulsion." President CLEVELAND seems to have a notion of the same kind. He will not have a law to tell him to pay out the money in the Treasury, but he will pay it out without a law. The *World* says:

"A call is to be at once made for \$15,000,000 bonds, which, it is alleged, is to be promptly followed by similar calls at monthly intervals."

The New York Tribune's attacks upon Mr. GOODE are discreditable to that journal. There is no purer man in public life in the United States. The Tribune's falsehoods are known to be falsehoods by its Virginia readers at least, and will give that paper a reputation amongst our people which will deprive its utterances of all weight.

A JUNEBUG.—The Charleston (West Va.) Labor Advocate says that any male of eighteen or female of sixteen judges grand juries will not find indictments against parties in Richmond and Lynchburg who are pursuing licensed business in plain violation of law, the Commonwealth's attorneys ought to be instructed to file information against them. If these judges persist in dismissing the information let the cases be taken to the Supreme Court of the State. I think we need have no fears of the result in that court.

With this exception the course of the Board of Indemnity is to be highly commended, and they ought to be applauded and strengthened, and not criticised and pulled to pieces by gentlemen calling themselves Democrats.

If the entire metropolitan press would come boldly to the front and bring its power to bear on this question Mr. ROYAL would finally fail to rally many tax-payers of Virginia to the aid of the bondholders. The country would not see the extraordinary spectacle now exhibited by citizens and sons of Virginia who are asking at the hands of juries vindictive damages against their own State because they are required to contribute something to the support of the government which guards and protects them in the possession of their property—in the enjoyment of liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

There was much noise in the Dalany case. We heard loud manifestoes and proclamations of a recovery that would shake the State. The note of preparation was immense—and behold the result: *Parturit montes, nascitur ridiculus mus!*

Why, Mr. Dalany knows, or ought to know, that he would have accomplished the same result in his own county by a tender of coupons accompanied with the payment of money under his act of January 14, 1882. So soon as his coupons were tendered under that act his money would have been returned to him, and he would stand where he now stands without incurring upon his own State all the expense and cost to which he has been subjected. It is impossible to see without regret a man of Mr. Dalany's wealth and social position leading himself to such a warfare against his own State. Let me ask him and those who imitate his example: If every citizen of Virginia pays in coupons, how are the schools and colleges to be maintained, the houses, the

The Philadelphia Press says: "With Congress out of the way the country may begin to mend, but its constitution

has been severely tried." What the constitution of the country most needs is that some of the judges of the Supreme Court should get out of the way.

New Books.

Obituary. An Episode. By M. G. McLELLAND. Second edition. New York: HENRY HOLT & Co. 1885. For sale by WEST, JOHNSTON & Co.

Esop's Fables. New York: GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS. 1886. Price in paper 10 cents.

For sale by WEST, JOHNSTON & Co.

The Chilotea; Or, Two Widows. A Novel. By LESLIE KEITH. New York: HARPER & BROTHERS. 1886. Price in paper 20 cents.

For sale by WEST, JOHNSTON & Co.

MARTINSVILLE.

A Batch of Personals from Henry County.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

MARTINSVILLE, August 7, 1886.

Miss Emma Hunt, after visiting in Farmville, has returned to her home with Mr. Senator A. P. Staples.

Miss Mary G. Robins, of Richmond, Va., is visiting her cousin, Mrs. A. P. Staples.

Miss Cooky Pierce, of Weldon, N. C., and Miss Lizzie Lyons, of Richmond, are the guests of Miss Lavina Williams.

Mrs. James W. Smith and her attractive daughter, Miss Lucy Belle, of Hillsboro, Ohio, are visiting Mrs. M. A. Thomas.

Messrs. J. G. Penn, P. P. Watson, George D. Gravelly, and Marshall Hultz are at Patrick Springs.

Miss Mary E. Boyd and Miss Mary Correll, two attractive belles from the Old North State, are visiting the Misses Spencer.

J. L. Anderson, Esq., of Richmond, is visiting his parents near here.

Misses Molly Gravelly and Leck Smith are at Patrick Springs.

Mrs. Reese, of Hillsboro, Va., is the guest of Miss L. K. Terry.

W. O. Hardyway, Esq., is visiting his people in Amelia county.

Mrs. Judge N. H. Hairston is in Pulaski county for the summer.

Miss Lucy Sample is at Dr. Dreyer's.

Mrs. Dr. Broadnax is at Piedmont Springs.

P. Hairston, E. L. Moir, John H. Pharis, J. R. Waggoner, John D. Spencer, and H. G. Peters were to-day appointed delegates to the State Convention, which meets on August 19th.

LYNCHBURG.

Three Men Arrested on the Charge of Robbery.

(Special telegram to the Dispatch.)

LYNCHBURG, Va., August 7.—J. H. Mitchell, of Roanoke, was robbed in a bar-room in this city Thursday night of twenty-three dollars, and charged Charles E. Butler, Charles A. Smith, and John B. Snyder with having committed the robbery. Butler was arrested here last night on a telegram from the Roanoke authorities. Smith and Snyder slipped out of Roanoke, boarded a train, and arrived here this morning. Both were immediately arrested.

An old man, J. L. Harris, from Nelson county, was robbed on the same train of \$500, of which \$300 were found on Smith and \$200 on Snyder. The money was identified. Smith and Snyder were sent on to the grand jury. Butler returned to Roanoke to answer the charge of robbing Mitchell. Smith and Snyder have been travelling as vendors, of value—one playing the banjo. Meanwhile a box of axle-grease, out of which the salve was presumably made, was found in their baggage. Butler claims to be from Frederick City, Md., the others from Washington city.

HORRIBLY MANGLED.

A Richmond Negro Killed in Cat's Tunnel.

(Special telegram to the Dispatch.)

MILLBROOK, Va., August 7.—This morning, on his regular tour of inspection through Cat's tunnel, situated a fourth of a mile west of this station, Watchman O'Connor discovered the body of John H. Jones, a young colored man, about midway of the tunnel. It was horribly mangled. The head was entirely severed from the body, and as completely scalped as could have been done by a surgeon. The fragments were gathered up and taken to the station, where Acting-Coroner Gauthier held an inquest. He made a thorough and most diligent examination, but failed to elicit any facts to criminate any one or throw any light on the probable cause of death. There is a division of opinion here as to whether he was murdered and placed on the track to hide the crime or was walking through the tunnel when a train overtook and ran over him. The evidence pointed to the former, but circumstances to the latter. Until recently he had been a waiter in George Banister's restaurant, Richmond, but at the time of his death was employed as a waiter at Millbrook Hotel. He bore a most excellent reputation.

The Clifton Forge Accident.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

CLIFTON FORGE, August 7, 1886.

The terrible accident to Miss Lillie Bartlett, which was wired the Dispatch yesterday, has cast a gloom over this place. The young lady was only about seventeen years of age. It seems that she and a young lady friend started from old Clifton Forge early yesterday morning to come to town. At the place where the accident occurred is a long side-track, which, owing to the heavy freight train running, was crowded with cars. There is a space of only three or four feet between the main line and siding. The young ladies were standing against the cars on the siding, but thinking they could not safely remain there they started to cross the track in front of the approaching train. One of them did so with safety. The poor unfortunate was crushed beneath the wheels of the merciless locomotive, the whole train passing over her, severing her body nearly in twain.

The Terror of City County Jailed at Last.

(Special telegram to the Dispatch.)

CHARLESTON, W. Va., August 7.

George Beasley, who murdered Henderson Moore, attempted to murder Moore's brother, was accused of murdering his own wife, and who kept City county in a state of terror by his threats against other citizens of it, has been arrested and put in jail in Jackson county.